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brown; pith white, tinged with green. Fibrovascular bundle forms a semi-circular marking on the leaf scar (figs. 3, *a*, *b*). The scaly bud and the opposite leaves also serve to distinguish this shrub. It forms a terminal bud.

5. *Magnolia Umbrella*.—The buds are covered with close villous hairs, and short hairs are also found at the tips of the branches. In the leaf scars the fibrovascular bundles appear as dots, arranged in two series, often confused and not readily distinguished in case the leaf scar is narrow (figs. 4, *a*, *b*). The exterior set of dots is the larger. In the scaly winter buds, the flowers in October show petals 7^{mm} long; the sepals are very distinct; the stamens are 2.5^{mm} long; the styles are very distinctly visible. The fruiting pedicel includes a node bearing occasionally a leaf (fig. 4 *c*), but usually only a sheathing scale, morphologically the sheathing petiole (fig. 4 *d*). The bark is greenish; tinged with brown. The characteristic sympodial growth of a large part of the branch is due to the abundant flowering tips, which later fall off. Sometimes two seeds occur in the cell (fig. 4 *e*).

6. *Liriodendron Tulipifera*.—In the leaf scar the outer series of fibrovascular bundles appears as five dots of larger size, arranged at approximately equal distances apart (figs. 5 *a*, *b*, *c*). The inner set of fibrovascular bundles varies in number and size. The pith is solid, and is composed of portions with large cells, separated by cross-portions composed of finer cells.—AUGUST F. FOERSTE, *Dayton, O.*

Tillæa simplex.—The re-discovery of Dr. Gray's shortia and of Audubon's Florida lily are familiar stories to botanists; other plants too, belong in the list, though not lost for so long; *Potamogeton Niagarensis*, for instance, detected by no one after its discovery by Professor Tuckerman, till the late Dr. Morong found it again in the same waters.

I write to put on record that after a lapse of sixty-five years *Tillæa simplex* Nutt. has come to light once more in Nantucket, Mass., where Oakes found it in 1829. It has been remembered and sought for in the course of these years, by diligent and ambitious collectors, natives of the island and visitors, as they had opportunity, and Mrs. Mabel F. Robinson of Elizabeth, N. J., is at last the fortunate discoverer. We shall never know where Oakes collected his plants as he said nothing more than "on the dried borders of small ponds," but as that most accurate botanist used "pond" in the plural number, we hope that new localities may yet be found for this rare little thing, of which only the gigantic specimens reach two inches in height.

Mrs. Robinson spends her summers in Nantucket with her family, and her interest in the island flora has led to this fine discovery.

And while writing I will mention that two species of *Picris* still rare in America, have in their travels reached this place; *P. hieracioides* and *P. echinoides* have both been found this last season within our city limits, and also *Alyssum incanum* has appeared for the first time. *Azolla Caroliniana* has surprised us too, in our largest park, but as the pond which it covers with its fronds is full of lotus plants (*Nelumbo*), it is pretty certain that it came in with their roots. It shows that it is not quite at home in our northern waters by being of slender growth and producing no fruit.—MARIA L. OWEN, *Springfield, Mass.*

Leucoplasts.—It may be of interest to some to know that first-class material for starch formers, showing all stages of the formation of starch grains, may be obtained from the petioles of *Musa Ensete*, the Abyssinian banana. The oblong horizontal diaphragms separating the large intercellular spaces of the petiole are composed of from two to six layers of parenchymatous cells. The superficial layers are stellate in form and contain no leucoplasts or very few, but usually a large number of beautiful crystals. The cells of the deeper layers generally contain a considerable number of comparatively large leucoplasts, either clustered about the nucleus or scattered throughout the cytoplasm. For study it is only necessary to remove the diaphragm with a scalpel, pocket knife, or other similar instrument, mount and treat with reagent to suit the occasion. The lower eight to twelve inches of the petiole furnishes the best material. The botanical department of the University of Wisconsin can furnish a limited amount of this material to institutions not having access to the growing banana plants, at the cost of transportation.—L. S. CHENEY, *University of Wisconsin, Madison.*

Formulæ for life histories.—By an oversight the signs following S in the second, third, and fourth formulæ printed on page 31 of the January number were o (representing gametes) instead of O (representing spores). Readers should make the correction.—J. M. C.